United Nations A/HRC/39/NI/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 September 2018

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth session
10–28 September 2018
Agenda 6
Universal periodic review

Joint written submission by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

GE.18-14588(E)

1814588

Please recycle

Annex

Submission by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission

UPR statement by the UK NHRIs to the HRC 39th session

Mr President,

I make this statement on behalf of the UK's three 'A status' National Human Rights Institutions. Almost exactly one year ago today, this Council adopted the outcome of the UK's third Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

At that time we provided a statement in this Chamber calling for greater engagement with the UPR process going forward, and for governments across the UK to publish clear and actionable implementation plans.

Though this has not yet happened, we are encouraged by the update report published by the UK Government in August, and the Scottish Government's detailed response to each UPR recommendation, published earlier this year. The absence of the NI Assembly has hampered progress towards implementation of the UPR recommendations in Northern Ireland and is a serious source of concern.

It would be easier to determine progress going forward if a clear framework is published as a basis for implementation. We offer our practical support to UK and devolved governments in the development of UPR implementation plans, utilising the best practice honed by other institutions and Member States represented here today. We believe these plans should set out commitments to specific actions and clear mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress.

We hope that this process can begin without delay, with meaningful input from stakeholders across the country. Doing so ensures the continued credibility of this vital process, both at home and internationally.

We believe that developing a system of durable and effective follow-up will better enable the UK to fulfil the UPR's objective of improving the human rights situation on the ground, and hope to be able to provide positive updates to the Council in this regard in 2019.

Thank you.